

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03

ABF-01 OMB-01 OIC-02 SP-02 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4696

INFO USUN USMISSION NEW YORK 3161

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OCON, AORG, WFP, UN, FAO

SUBJECT: WFP PLEDGE TARGET

1. CFA HELD DESULTORY HALF-DAY DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED 1979/1980 PLEDGE TARGET OF \$950 MILLION. FURTHER DISCUSSION WILL TAKE PLACE AT WEEK'S END WHEN SECRETARIAT HAS HAD CHANCE TO QUERY ECOSOC AS TO FEASIBILITY OF ECOSOC CONVENING EARLY NOVEMBER TO REVIEW CFA TARGET RECOMMENDATION. US INTERVENED EARLY TO INDICATE US WOULD NOT SUPPORT \$950 TARGET AS PRESENTLY JUSTIFIED AND COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY TARGET AT THIS TIME. DELEGATION INDICATED CONCERNS OUTLINED PARA 1, POSITION PAPER (I.E. NEED TO FOCUS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ON POOREST COUNTRIES, GREATER COORDINATION OF WFP FOOD AID WITH OTHER FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, NEED FOR REALISTIC, OBTAINABLE TARGET, AND NEED NOT TO PREJUDGE DECISION ON FAC EXTENSION). DELEGATION ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER STATEMENT BY ACTING RESOURCES DIVISION CHIEF THAT \$950 MILLION WOULD ALLOW WFP TO PLAY SIGNIFICANT PART IN NUTRITIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES. (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAD EARLIER INDICATED WFP'S ROLE IN SUCH SCHEMES WOULD BE SECONDARY AND REPRESENT MINOR US OF PROGRAM RESOURCES.) WE ALSO MENTIONED OUR INTEREST

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IN REVIEWING FOOD AID PRIORITY CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO MSA'S. DELEGATION CONCLUDED BY INDICATING RECEPTIVITY TO FURTHER JUSTIFICATIONS BY SECRETARIAT BUT ARGUED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION UNTIL 4TH CFA.

2. RECIPIENT COUNTRIES UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED NEED FOR \$950 MILLION TARGET. MANY NOTED SECRETARIAT STATEMENT IN EXPLANA-

TORY DOCUMENT THAT WHILE WFP ONLY PROPOSING COMMITMENT RATE OF \$300 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR 1978-1980, THERE ARE SUFFICIENT PROJECTS TO JUSTIFY \$600 MILLION COMMITMENT ANNUALLY. MOST ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT WITHOUT WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT BY DONORS, THERE LITTLE REASON TO PRESS AHEAD WITH TARGET DEBATE. GUINEA URGED DONORS TO LOOK TO THEIR HEARTS (AND CAPITALS) FOR ABILITY TO ACCEDE TO \$950 MILLION PROPOSAL BY END OF WEEK.

3. MOST DONOR COUNTRIES TOOK SOFT POSITIONS IN FAVOR OF TARGET DESPITE NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ON ACHIEVABILITY, LDC ABILITY TO ABSORB, RELATIONSHIP OF WFP FOOD AID TO OTHER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, COST TO SMALL DONORS OF CONTINUED RAPID WFP GROWTH. (CANADA INQUIRED INTO EFFORT BY WFP TO ATTRACT NEW DONORS.) NONE ARGUED THAT ISSUE NEEDED TO BE DECIDED AT 3RF DFA AND ALL LIKELY TO SUPPORT CONSIDERATION NEXT SEESION IF FEASIBLE.

4. ROBINSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN VIEW OF DEBATE, DECISION TO DEFER DECISION WOULD BE PRUDENT BUT DIFFICULT. EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ECOSOC WILL HANDLE IN THE FALL IF DECISION DELAYED.

5. FOR USUN: WOULD APPRECIATE INFO SOONEST ON FEASIBILITY OF ECOSOC RECONVENING EARLY NOVEMBER TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF CFA. WE WONDER, FOR INSTANCE, IF MATTER COULD NOT BE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH CONSIDERATION OF IMF AND IBRD ANNUAL REPORTS AND IFAD/ECOSOC RELATIOSNSHIP AGREEMENT IF IT READY FOR UN APPROVAL BY THAT TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFP PLEDGE TARGET
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